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MINUTES

OF THE

Seventeenth Annual Session

OF THE

Leaf River Baptist Association

HELD WITH

MT. PISGAH CHURCH

GREENE COUNTY, MISS.,

OCTOBER 19, 20 AND 21, 1907.

OFFICERS

J. KITTRELL, Moderator.....Jonathan, Miss.
J. E. JOHNSON, Clerk.....Richton, Miss.
J. C. ROBERTS, Treasurer.....Grafton, Miss.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Elder Alexander Breland.....McLain, Miss.
Elder P. G. Hillman.....McLain, Miss.
Elder J. P. Griffin.....Pearce, Ala.
Elder C. M. Breland.....Merrill, Miss.
Elder R. B. Lee.....McLain, Miss.
Elder G. W. Rainer.....McLain, Miss.
Elder A. W. Morgan.....Brown, Miss.

LICENTIATES

W. W. Walley, E. R. Roberts, C. W. Harvison, Jas. W. Beard, Mapoc Ball.

The next convention of this body will be held with Pleasant Hill Church, Greene County, Miss., nine miles north-east of McLain. Members of Pleasant Hill Church will meet all delegates who come on railroad at [illegible] and convey them to Association and return.

MINUTES

OF THE

Leaf River Baptist Association.

FIRST DAY'S SESSION.

The delegates representing the several churches comprising the Leaf River Baptist Association, met with Mt. Pisgah Church, Greene County Mississippi, for the purpose of holding its seventeenth Annual Session today, Oct. 19, 1907.

Rev. Alexander Breland opened services by reading from God's Word and then preached to an audience of patient attentive listeners.

After the preaching dinner was spread and the delegates will always have pleasant thooughts of the people of Mt. Pisgah Church and surrounding community.

The dinner was well prepared and plenty for each day.

At 1:30 P. M. the delegates and visitors again assembled in the house and the afternoon session began by Bro. Alexander Breland's reading from the book and making a few timely remarks on the character of David.

Brother Breland led in prayer in which he earnestly invoked God's blessings on the Association.

Moderator then opened the Association for business.

J. D. Turner and Irvin Byrd were oppointed reading clerks.

Finance Committee appointed: J. R. Parker, Jas. W. Beard and S. R. Breland.

Preaching Committee: J. C. Roberts, W. C. Welford and A. Davis.

Moderator next called for Association letters and the following churches responded with letters and delegates.

Washington: Alex Ball, Jeff, Byrd, Jas. Hillman.

New Hope: J. R. Parker, J. T. Vice.

Sweet Water: J. D. Turner, W. A. Breland, Mance Ball.

Mt. Pisgah: A. Davis, W. C. Welford, J. A. Davis.

Cedar Grove: J. Kittrell, G. W. Smith, S. R. Breland.

McLain: Jas. Slay.

Sand Hill: J. C. Roberts, E. E. Roberts, J. F. Roberts.

Merrill: Represented by letter.

Pleasant Hill: Josiah Byrd, Irvin Byrd, A. E. Turner.

Lucedale: C. Pipkin.

Fair Hope: W. J. Jordan, J. B. Turner.

Macedonia: Joel Welford, J. W. Brannon, Lew Welford.

Rocky Creek: C. P. Eubanks, Jas. Cannon, C. E. Davis.

Fellowship: C. P. Smith. J. S. Smith.

Seminary: Represented by letter.

Moderator next made call for petitioning letters and two were presented: Leakesville and Richton Churches.

After reading of letters of said petitioning churches, right hand of fellowship was given these delegates by the Moderator.

Leakesville: J. E. Miller, C. B. Blalack, C. L. Stone.

Richton: J. E. Johnson.

Moderator next made call for Corresponding messengers and letters and following Associations responded: S. E. Eld. Berry Byrd and L. S. Welford. Red Creek Association W. H. Anderson. Tallahala Association—G. W. Duke.

Mascedonia Association, — Elder Jackson came in on Monday. All were given right hand of fellowslhip.

Association next went into election of officers for the year 1908. Moderator appointed J. D. Turner and Irvin Byrd as tellers to hold the election. Result of election was as follows:

Moderator, J. Kittrell.

Clerk, J. E. Johnson.

Treasurer, J, C. Roberts.

Moderator appointed committees as follow:s

Education—E. E. Roberts, C. Pipkin, J. B. Turner.

Missions—Eld. R. W. Brooks, Mance Ball, Alex Breland.

Sabbath Schools—J. C. Hillman Eld. G. W. Duke and Eld W. H. Anderson.

Temperance--W.J.Jordan, Eld. G. W. Duke, Alex Ball.

Queries and Requests—C. E. Davis, Jas. Slay, S. R. Breland.

State of Religion—C. P. Smith, Arch Turner, Eld. R. W. Brooks.

Sustentation—C. E. Davis, J. E. Miller, Eld. Berry Byrd.

Orphans Home—G. W. Duke, Jeff Byrd J. E. Johnson.

Deceased Ministers and Deacons—J. S. Smith. Josiah Byrd and W, C. Welford.

On motion the association adjourned to meet again Mondeay Oct. 21, 1907 at 9 A. M.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

Devotional Services were conducted today by Elder R. W. Brooks and Elder Moorman in order named. Each preached an interesting and instructive sermon to a large audience. Elder G. W. Duke preached in the afternoon to a large crowd.

THIRD DAY'S SESSION.

Monday's session was opened by Eld. Brooks reading a portion of God's word followed by prayer.

The Moderator then opened the Association for business.

Roll was called and absentees noted. Reports of Committees were then called for and read and each one was stressed vigorously and adopted.

A.—REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The subject of education is one of vital importance. On it depends the future prosperity of our bright Southland.

In a great measure our efforts to best serve our Master, depend on the way we have been educated.

Education in its narrow sense, is the accumulation of knowledge for practical purposes; but in its broader sense it is the development of the mental faculties of the individual thereby increasing one's power for doing good.

Very much depends upon the way in which it is educated. While education helps very materially in a financial way, we should not lose sight of the fact we are educating our boys and girls to make them more useful in life.

Bretheren we claim that the education of the child should begin in the home. Around the mother's knee the child usually gets the foundation of its education. While we are looking to mental development, let's not lose sight of the spiritual development in our children.

It has been said that music trains the better side of humanity, or brings out the best there is in man. It touches the tender chords of the heart. Therefore let us see that our children are educated in the divine art of sacred song. Then in conclusion we urge that our brethern and sisters do all they can to maintain good schools, train their children

in their homes, furnish plenty of good literature and music of high standard that our future generations may carry on more successfully the Blessed work of our Lord and Master be an honor to their family and a blessing to their country.

E. E. Roberts, Chairman.

B.—MISSIONS.

The Lord said "Go ye unto all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is baptised shall be saved" Paul says—We are all workers together with him." Let us cast our eyes over the field which is white already unto harvest," and let us be up and doing in the Master's service. Let us have the missionary spirit in our churches, and then we will fulfill the duties God holds us responsible for. The destitution in our own state and county is so manifest that we can see it everywhere. Our Lord said, "Begin at Jerusalem and extend to the uttermost parts of the earth."

Let us begin at home, and teach the word in the dark corners of our own country and not forget the foreign fields, while 80,000,000 Heathens are dying for want of the gospel. For those people Christ died; and He expects us to labor with Him for the conversion of those lost ones on earth. It is the church's highest duty to give the gospel to the world and thereby hasten the day when all shall know Him, from the least to the greatest, and the gospel shall be preached to all the world, and the glory of the Lord cover the earth as waters cover the mighty deep.

R. W. Brooks, Chairman.

C.—SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to make the the following report: We believe Sabbath School is a work of the church, and that our Sunday School teachers should be good Christian men and women who are able to teach the word of God.. We recommend that our churches have good active Sabbath Schools. We insist on our fathers and mothers taking their children and attending Sabbath School.

God commands us to bring our children to him and I don't know any better way to bring them to Christ than in the Sunday School.

We recommend that all our churches organize a Baptist Sabbath School and use the Southern Baptist Convention

literature.

G. W Duke, Chairman.

D.—TEMPERANCE.

We your committee on temperance beg leave to make the following report: Temperance means to be temperate in all things. We can be intemperate in almost any thing. We recommend that our churches be temperate in all things.

We realize that the drink habit is the gratest evil in our country and we find that a great many of our brethern participate in this habit. We recommend that our churches use all their influence against this great evil We further recommend that our churches exclude from their body any member for the second offense of drunkeness.

W. J. Jordan, Chairman.

E.—SUSTENTATION.

We beg your comittee on substitution (or infirm ministers) to make report as follows: We find that we have two (2) aged and worn out ministers, who have retired from active work, and find that they are somewhat in need of help. The bretheren referred to are, Elder P. G. Hillman of Janet, Miss.; and Elder J. P. Griffin of Pearce, Ala. Brethern, we are taught by the word of God, that we should care for these aged and worn out ministers who are not able to care for themselves. Therefore we recommend that the association take some active steps to relieve the above named brethern and all others who may need such help.

J. E. Miller, Chairman.

F.—STATE OF RELIGION.

We your committee on State of Religion beg to make report that we find very few of the churches in a prosperous condition as they should be. We find only three churches in our association that have Sunday Schools, and these are the most prosperous ones in the association. We find three or four churches have had revivals within the past year and there have been some in gatherings for which we give God the praise. But looking over the field we see that on the whole our spiritual life is at a rather low ebb. Your committee would recommend that during the coming year, that we strive to secure good pastors for all our churches that are now pastorless, that the churches may be better equipped for services, as a church without a pastor is as sheep without a shepherd, drifting away with none to lead

them. We believe that with these recommendations followed, that the state of religion next year will be an improvement on this year, and we should always strive to do better each year.

C. P. Smith, Chairman.

G.—ORPHAN'S HOME.

The question of Orphanages appeals to our people, in a way that we are unable to resist, if we were so disposed. Two (2) years ago, at Fair Hope, we made our first collection as an association for the orphanage located at Jackson, to amount of $15.00. Last year at Rocky Creek we collected about twice as much, and this year I think we will nearly double last year's collection. We see that the people only need to be informed of their duties and they will meet them substantially and cheerfully. Now brethern we must do more. Let us not be satisfid with the present conditions of work. Leaf River Association can and ought to take care of at least two orphans. There are some churches in in our association that can and ought to take care of one each and not be burdened. A new building, now occupied by the babies, has lately been erected and they are needing funds to meet expenses. There are now about 135 inmates in the home and each year brings new ones and renewed obligations in a financial way. Let us not lose sight of this fact and meet our share of it.

J. E. Johnson, Chairman.

QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

We your committee on queries and requests report as follows: We find no queries. Several churches have requested to convene with them next year. We recommend that the next convention of this body be held with McLain Church Greene County, Miss., and that Brother R.J.O'Bryant preach the introductory sermon and Brother R. W. Brooks be his alternate.

J. Slay, Chairman.

P. S. At time of adoption of above report, the association voted to hold next convention of the body with Pleasant Hill Church, Greene County, Miss.

I.—FINANCE.

We your committee on finance beg leave to make the following report:

Home Mission fund from churches, - -	$ 23.45.
Home Missions on Sabbaths, - - - -	$ 22.93.

Associational fund - - - - - - -	$ 58.25.
Foreign Mission fund, - - - - - - -	$ 12.20.
Orphanage fund, - - - - - - - - -	$ 25.58.
Remaining in treasury last year, - - -	$112.48.
Total, - - - - - - -	$254.89

We have examined treasurer's report and find it correct.

J. R. Parker, Chairman.

J.—DECEASED MINISTERS AND DEACONS.

Your committee, after investigation finds one deceased Deacon, Brother D. F. Bradley has been summoned to pass from time to eternity since last we met. Our sympathies go out to the bereft ones, and to them we extend condolence.

J. S. Smith, Chairman.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

1st. Resolved that the association have 500 copies of minutes printed for the use of the churches and the association; and that the clerk superintend the printing of same and that he receive the sum of $15.00 for his services.

2nd. Resolved that the treasurer receive the sum of $5.00 for his services for the year of 1908.

3rd. Resolved that the amounts contributed by the churches to orphanage be inserted in the minutes.

4th. Resolved that the association do reconsider the place of convening the association and same be located with some other church than McLain, on grounds that McLain Baptist people have no house of their own in which to entertain the association.

5th. Resolved that the association create a fund for the relief for the infirm ministers, their widows and orphans, and that the deacons of each church be authorized and directed to take collection for said purpose and that they take such collections in November and April, and that such collections be paid into the treasurer for distribution by the executive board of the association as they see fit at any of the regular meetings.

J. E. Miller.

6th. Resolved that the delegates of the Leaf River Association and visitors to same do hereby tender their most grateful thanks to all the people of Mt. Pisgah Church and those who are not members of same, who so nobly cared for us during our stay with them.

Other denominations deserve special mention in this connection.

Association adjourned to meet with Pleasant Hill Church 9 miles north east of McLain, Greene County, Miss., on Saturday befove the 3rd Sunday in October 1908.

J. Kittrell, Moderator.
J. E. Johnson, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

We the Churches of Jesus Christ, haveing been regularly baptised upon a profession of faith, being convinced of the necessity and utility of a combination of churches of the same faith and order, do agree to unite ourselves into an Association upon the following principles:

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. We believe in only one true and living God; and that there is a trinity of persons in the Godhead; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one and the same in essence, equal in power and glory.

2nd. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by God; that they are of divine authority; that they contain the whole of the Divine will and purposes as revealed to man, and they are the only standard of divine truth and the only and sufficient rule of faith and practice.

3rd. We believe in the fall of Adam, and in him all his posterity; the total corruption of man's moral nature, and in man's inability to restore himself in to the favor of God.

4th. We believe in the everlasting love of God in His people in the eternal and unconditional election of all his spiritual children to grace and glory.

5th. We believe by the everlasting covenant, grace is treasured up in Christ to insure the generation, sanctification, preservation and perseverance of all God's people so that none of them shall be finally lost.

6th. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them.

7th. We believe there is one mediator between God, and man—the man Jesus Christ who by the santificafion he has made by law and justice in becoming an offering for sin hath forever redeemed his people from under the curse of the law that they might be accepted and beloved.

8th. We believe that good work is meritorious, that

they are the fruits of faith and follow after justification; and that it is the duty of all believers to perform them from a principle of love.

9th. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgement, and the happiness of righteousness and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

10th. We believe that foot washing is an example practiced by Christ, and that it is a duty to practice it.

GOSPEL ORDER.

1st. We believe that a visiable church of Christ is a congregation of faithful persons who have given themselves to the Lord; and to one another in brotherly covenant to keep a Godly discipline agreeable to the New Testament.

2nd. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only head and law-giver of his church and is equally the right and priveledge of each member thereof.

3rd. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are gospel ordinances, appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in his church until his second coming.

4th. We believe that immersion only in baptism, and that believers in Christ are the only proper subjects.

5th. We believe that nothing but regularly baptised church members have the right to partake of the Lord's supper.

6th. We believe that it is the duty and privilege of all believers to make a public confession of their faith to submit to the ordinance of the gospel, and to give themselves as members of the visible church.

7th. We believe it to be the duty of every church to expel from her communion every member that is immoral in conduct or that holds doctrine contrary to the scriptures.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. This Association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the church to which they respectively belong and shall be styled the Leaf River Baptist Association.

2nd. Such delegates shall be members in good standing, and no member under church censure shall be allowed a seat in the Association.

3rd. They shall produce letters certifying to their appointment by their respective churches, and stating the number baptised, received by letter, restored, dismissed, ex-communicated and deceased during the preceding associational year, with the total number of fellowship and such

other statistical matters as the Association may direct.

4th. This Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen annually by a majority of the members present; said Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be elected by ballot and shall fill their respective places, if present at the succeeding Association until a new election takes place, and while in office shall discharge the duties ordinarily incident to those offices.

5th. If new churches desire to be admitted into the Association, they shall petition by letters and delegates, and if orthodox and orderly shall be received, and the Moderator shall recognize them by giving their delegates the right hand of fellowship in behalf of the body.

6th. Each church shall have three delegates and no more, who shall be entitled to seats in the body and to vote. All ministers of the same faith and order are invited to sit with us, to aid us in counsel.

7th. The Association shall neither answer nor debate any query on gospel doctrine, except it be to merely explain the articles of faith of this Association.

8th. Every motion made and seconded shall be reduced to writing if requested by any member, and shall be considered by the Association except it be withdrawn by the mover before discussion.

9th. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded in the minutes unless so ordered at the time.

10th. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken on each point separately.

11th Only one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator. He shall confine himself to the subject properly in debate, cast no reflection on the Association or any member thereof, and shall not be interrupted while speaking.

12th. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

13th. The Moderator shall have the privilege of speaking on any subject in debate, the chair being previously filled. He shall rise from his seat and put the question to the body.

14th. The moderator shall decide questions of order, but appeal from such decision may be taken to the whole body which shall decide without debate.

15th. A majority of the members present shall be necessary

to carry any motion or proposition and the Moderator shall vote as other members when the vote is taken.

16th. Committees shall be nominated by the Moderator, subject to the approval of the Association.

17th. There shall be no talking or whispering while a brother is speaking.

18th. No brother shall finally depart from the Association without leave of the body.

19th. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk and called over when neccessary.

20th. The minutes shall be read, carefully corrected and signed by the Moderator and clerk before the Association arises.

21st. A motion for final adjournment shall be constructed to involve the previous reading and adjustment of the minutes.

22nd. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

23rd. Immediately after the organization of the Association the Rules of Order shall be read from the chair.

24th. The foregoing shall be subject to alternation or amendment at any regular meeting of the Association.

FORM OF LETTER.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

. . . . . County.

The regular Baptist church at . . . . . (here insert name of church) to Leaf River Association, Greeting:

Dear Brethern: We again prepare to meet you by letter and by delegates, and for this purpose have chosen our beloved brethern . . . . . to sit with you in council, to whom we refer you for any information not contained in our statistical table, which is as follows:

Baptised . . . . .; received by letter . . . . .; restored . . . . . .; dismissed by letter. . . . . .; excommunicated . . . . . ; deceased . . . . . .; total fellowship . . . . . .; number of copies of minutes . . . . . .; we send for associational purposes, $ . . . . .; for home missions, $ . . . . . .; our supply is . . . . .; time of meeting is . . . . ordained ministers . . . . . licentiates . . . . .; our postoffice is . . . . .;Remarks . . . . . .

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	DELEGATES	PASTORS	Postoffice	COUNTY	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dism's by Letter.	Expelled.	Deceased.	Total Fellowship.	No. Minutes.	Associational Purposes.	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Sent Orphanage.	Value of Property.
Washington	Jeff Byrd, Jas. Hillman Alex Ball.	Alex Breland	McLain	Greene	5	0	1			2	89	30	3 5	5 20			600
New Hope	J. T. Vice, J. R. Parker.	G. W. Rainer	Howell	Jackson	7			1	2		54	15	2 00				1200
Mt. Pisgah	A. Davis, J. A. Davis W. C. Welford.	Berry Byrd	Exsho	Washington	5	3					93	30	3 50			8 00	1200
Sweet Water	J. D. Turner, Mance Ball W. A. Breland.	R. W. Brooks	Leakesville	Greene	12		1				122	75	6 00			11 88	1000
Cedar Grove	J. Kittrell, G. W. Smith, S. R. Breland.	Alex. Breland	Jonathan	Greene							47	20	2 00	3 00		5 70	600
McLain	Jas. S. Slay.	G. W. Rainer	McLain	Greene							43	15	3 00				
Sand Hill	J. C. Roberts, E. E. Roberts, J. F. Roberts.	G. W. Boyd	Grafton	Greene	4	6 5	1		1	2	80	15	2 00				800
Merrill			Merrill	Greene				1			31	15	6 65				
Pleasant Hill	Josiah Byrd, A. E. Turner, Irvin Byrd.	Alex. Breland	Janet	Greene	11			5		1	76	25	2 50				800
Lucedale	C. Pipkin.	G. W. Rainer	Lucedale	Greene	41	11		4			94	25	5 00				
Rocky Creek	C. P. Eubanks, C. E. Davis, Jas. Cannon,	R. J. O'Bryant	Mullett	Greene	39	6	1	22	1		187	50	5 5	15 25			1800
Fair Hope	W. J. Jordan, J. B. Turner,																500
Macedonia	Joel Welford, J. W. Brannan, Lew Welford.	Joshua Newell	Beaumont	Perry	6	1	1	11			69	25	3 00				
			Shipman	Jackson							37	25	2 50				500
Fellowship	C. P. Smith, J. S. Smith.	D. G. Robertson	Adamsville	Greene													1000
Seminary		L. E. Lightsey	Hintonville	Perry							20	10	2 00				
Richton	J. E. Johnson.	A. M. Sheppard	Richton	Perry	8	1	2	2	1		36	15	1 50				200
Leakesville	J. E. Miller, C. B. Blalack C. L. Stone.	G. W. Rainer	Leakesville	Greene	1	29		11			64	25	3 50			16 10	500
					1	6		3			20	30	4 00				1800
				Total	110	68	7	40	5	5	1162	488	58 15	23 45		41 68	13000

58.25 58.58 41.68 158.51

STATISTICAL TABLE

WAR

Lucien Bandy
Nashville
Tenn.

GREENE COUNTY HERALD PRINT